

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-456

June 29, 1998

RALPH SAYER V. CENTRAL  
MAINE POWER COMPANY  
Appeal of Consumer Assistance  
Division Decision  
CAD # 1997-5088

ORDER ON APPEAL  
(corrected)

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, Commissioner

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## **I. SUMMARY**

Lola Sayer appeals a payment arrangement established by the Commission's Consumer Assistance Division (CAD). We affirm the CAD decision and dismiss Mrs. Sayer's appeal without further investigation.

## **II. BACKGROUND AND DECISION**

CAD's June 3, 1998 decision thoroughly describes the background of this case. Since at least June of 1995, Mr. Sayer has complained about stray voltage problems at his dairy farm. As described in CAD's decision, CMP has taken various actions in an attempt to address this complaint. Mr. Sayer claims that since a Massachusetts line crew made some wiring changes as part of ice storm restoration effort, the voltage problem has not recurred. With regard to the balance owed on his electrical account, the last recorded payment on the account was in November 1997. The balance as of the April 30, 1998 billing was \$3,866.87. CAD established a payment arrangement requiring payment of \$1,290 by June 22, 1998 (1/3 the amount owed) with installment payments of \$215 per month for twelve months, plus current charges. The CAD found this arrangement to be reasonable given Mr. Sayer's payment history, the size of the overdue amount and the amount of time the bills have been outstanding.

We find no error in CAD's decision and affirm the CAD decision establishing the payment arrangement. Therefore, we dismiss Mr. Sayer's June 10, 1998 appeal, without further investigation. We do urge CMP to continue to provide any available assistance or referrals to such small commercial customers to allow these customers to remain in business.

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 29th day of June, 1998.

BY THE ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR: Welch  
Nugent

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5 M.R.S.A. § 9061 requires the Public Utilities Commission to give each party to an adjudicatory proceeding written notice of the party's rights to review or appeal of its decision made at the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The methods of adjudicatory proceedings are as follows:

1. Reconsideration of the Commission's Order may be requested under Section 6(N) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (65-407 C.M.R.11) within 20 days of the date of the Order by filing a petition with the Commission stating the grounds upon which consideration is sought.
2. Appeal of a final decision of the Commission may be taken to the Law Court by filing, within 30 days of the date of the Order, a Notice of Appeal with the Administrative Director of the Commission, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (1)-(4) and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 73 et seq.
3. Additional court review of constitutional issues or issues involving the justness or reasonableness of rates may be had by the filing of an appeal with the Law Court, pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. § 1320 (5).

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